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A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

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ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

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Agriculture.

JERSEYS AND GUERNSEYS.

Mr. J. H. Wallace (editor of *Watson's Monthly*) in the course of his recent travels in Europe, visited the islands of Jersey and Guernsey. He was very much struck by their natural beauties, but the object of his visit was not to hunt up the picturesque and view the beautiful, but to see for himself whether there were better cattle in Jersey than any already imported into America, and to compare the less known Guernseys with the famous Jerseys. His decided opinion is, that there are better Jerseys in the United States than in the island.

TALKS ON FARM CROPS.

"It is a great mistake, Deacon," said I to feed the small potatoes now, when we have abundance of succulent food. They will keep till next June. "True," replied he, "but I tell you a few bushels of small potatoes, boiled or steamed, and mashed up with hot with corn-meal, will push forward young fattening pigs very rapidly."

"When we have force enough," said Charley, "to keep three teams going lively, it is real fun to harvest a good crop of mangels. We have over ten thousand bushels to get in this year, and the best we have ever had.

PAPER FARMING.

As we glance at the great progress the world has made, it first appears that the whole category must be exhausted, and that the inventions for the time to come, must be few and far between. But we have every reason to believe that it will be to the contrary, and that the advancement will be as much faster in proportion, as there is more genuine knowledge and literature.

"Before winter sets in," said the Deacon, "you must attend to your corn-todder. I suppose you intend to let it remain in the field, and draw it as you want it in the winter."

POULTRY IN A LIMITED SPACE.

A correspondent of the London *Live Stock Journal* writes:—In a limited space, failure would be sure to attempt to raise chickens or to produce eggs in quantities; therefore I would say that with a limited space command the only way to leave a balance on the right side at the end of a season is to make a good selection from the several kinds among us termed "fancy poultry," and keep only a few.

"I do not know what you mean," said the Doctor. "It seems a very simple matter."

WHOLE FODDER PREFERRED.

Experiments by an agricultural society of Germany to determine whether it is better to give cows their fodder in its natural condition, as to length, or in small pieces, as when it passes through a cutting machine, resulted in showing that whole fodder is preferable because of the saving it effects without detriment to the yield of milk, or weight, or general health of the animals.

"Yes," said I, "we know that it is a good plan, though I presume we shall some time discover a better. We cut the fodder with a self-raking reaper that threw the fodder into bundles ready for binding. We have about 15 acres, all of it good, and some of it so thick and tall that we thought the reaper would not cut it."

THE AGRICULTURAL SOLUTION.

It is becoming more and more plain that for the increasing problems of this modern age, whose leading characteristics seem to be unrest, agriculture presents the most sure and effective solution. "Attention is newly directed to the soil," remarks the *N. Y. Evening Post*, "as the safest object of labor. The earth has not a habit of going into bankruptcy. It does not embezzle. It does not speculate. It does not neglect to pay its debts."

"You drew them in carts," said the Doctor, "and dump them into the pit?"

PREPARING POULTRY FOR MARKET.

When prices of produce are low, as every farmer is aware is the case this season, there is all the more need that whatever is sent to market shall be not merely good in quality but attractively put up, and inferior articles carefully kept separate, to fetch whatever a poor product may be worth. This is so notably the case with poultry, for instance, that we often wonder farmers can expect half market rates for the badly picked, imperfectly cleaned specimens which are so plenty about Thanksgiving time.

"No," said I, "we have sometimes done so but we usually draw them on stone-boats, tops and all, and top them at the pit. We have a man to help the driver to pull and load the mangels. We have three teams. One is loading up all the time, another is going back and forth, and the other is a pit. But you must recollect that this kind of work will not run itself. You must be there to lend a helping hand when needed. There is always a weak spot, and you must be prompt in detecting it."

FARM LIFE.—It is a common complaint that the farm and farm life are not appreciated by our people.

We long for the most elegant pursuits or the ways and fashions of the town. But the farmer has the most sane and natural occupation, and ought to find life sweeter, if less highly seasoned than any other. He alone, strictly speaking, has a home. How can a man take root and thrive without land? He writes his history upon his field. How many ties, how many resources he has; his friendships with his cattle, his team, his dog, his trees, the satisfaction in his growing crops, his improved fields; his intimacy with Nature, with bird and beast, and with the quickening elemental forces; his co-operation with the cloud, the sun, the seasons, heat, wind, rain, frost. Nothing will take the various social distempers which the city and artificial life breed out of a man like farming, like direct and loving contact with the soil. It draws out the man. It humbles him, teaches him patience and reverence, and restores the proper tone to his system. Cling to the farm, make much of it, put yourself into it, bestow your heart and your brain upon it, so that it shallavor of you and radiate your virtue after your day's work is done!—*John Burroughs, in November Scribner.*

"Not forgetting," said I, "to plough the ground on each side three or four times over, and as deep as possible. You cannot have too much fine, mellow soil about them. But the latter you do the final covering the better. Be very careful not to bury them where there is any danger of standing water."

THE POULTRY HOUSE IN NOVEMBER.

This month should not pass without the fowl houses being white-washed and the nests made clean and free from lice. The floor should be covered with three or four inches of gravelly loam, so that the sun may dry it before cold weather sets in. If the windows are not so arranged that the sunlight may fall directly on the floor, have them changed so that it will; for this sunlight and dry earth will enable you to winter fifty per cent more fowls in the same quarters—by reason of their agency in deodorizing the droppings—then can be kept on a bare floor, or upon the ground, for, in the latter case, the earth will become damp and filthy. Have the flock in winter, quarters before the hunter's moon, and begin the feed of meat as soon as frosts cut off the insect supply, also providing green food, as chopped roots, &c.—*I. K. Felch.*

The veterinary editor of the *National Live Stock Journal*, in speaking of spaying heifers, says that it is a pretty nice surgical operation, and should not be trusted to any one but a skillful, practical veterinarian, or one who has studied it under practical instructions. There is no doubt of the beneficial effect of spaying on the disposition to fatten, when skillfully done. It has been performed so many times with perfect safety, that there can be no doubt of its feasibility and profit, when experts shall be numerous enough, and near at hand. It is now mostly a question of expense to get an expert to perform the operation. At the experimental farms of our agriculture colleges, this operation should be practically taught by the veterinary professor, and in a few years expert operators would be widely distributed.